first sending low-speed data and, after a specific time interval, high-speed data to the cursor control means.

TAKAHASHI

Takahashi discloses a computer mouse that transmits a count number of pulse signals in accordance with the amount of movement of the mouse (col.1, lines 17-20). Takahashi addresses the problem that controlling the movement of the mouse gets more difficult due to a higher sensitivity if the number of pulses is increased that is transmitted by the mouse per amount of movement of the mouse body (col.1, lines 49-62). Takahashi provides a unit between pulse signal generator of the mouse and the computer for varying the count number of pulse signals transmitted by the mouse (col.2, lines 3-11). The mouse is provided with an additional push button switch for the user to manually select the count number (col.6, lines 7-13).

Takahashi addresses the user-friendliness of a computer mouse that is more easy to operate than a keyboard having many operating keys (col.1, lines 35-40).

ARGUMENTS

Prima facie obviousness cannot be established by combining teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the skilled person has no incentive to combine Kato's keyboard and Takahashi's mouse. For example, Takahashi observes that computer mice have advantages over keyboards with respect to ease of operation. Note that it seems inherent in Kato that the cursor movement can only be increased while keeping the cursor moving long enough in a particular fixed direction, either "up", "down", "left", or "right". These are the conventional

orientations available in known computer games when the user interacts through a keyboard. Keeping a key depressed for the cursor speed to increase implies keeping the cursor moving in one of the fixed directions. A change of direction would start Kato's timer anew. Cursor movement control via a computer mouse is not limited to only these four directions. The mouse controlled cursor seldomly travels along these fixed directions long enough to call into being Kato's teaching. Accordingly, Takahashi teaches away from Kato and cannot be combined unless using hindsight.

Moreover, Takahashi addresses the problem of mouse movement and associated cursor movement getting more difficult if the sensitivity of the mouse is increased. Kato relates to the cursor covering larger distances in a shorter time by increasing moving speed of the cursor. Applicants respectfully submit that sensitivity and speed are different concepts.

Applicants further submit that Takahashi relates to manually selecting the number of pulses per amount of mouse movement to modify the transfer function. Manual selection is achieved through push button switch 8a. Kato relates to automatically increasing the cursor speed after a specific key on a keyboard has been kept depressed for a certain period of time. Accordingly, Takahashi relates to manual selection of the number of pulses per mouse movement, whereas Kato relates to automatically increasing cursor speed. Substituting Kato's automatic procedure for the manual selection is a technological leap supported by neither a teaching or suggestion in the Kato and Takahashi references and is non-obvious as the integrity of both Takahashi's and Kato's concepts need drastic changes, assuming the combination is viable at all.

In summary, there is no reason in the prior art why one skilled in the art would have been prompted to combine the teachings of the

Kato and Takahashi references to arrive at the invention as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the final rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is therefore respectfully requested. Please charge any fees other than the issue fee to deposit account 14-1270. Please credit any overpayments to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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